Assistance Fund, as per guidelines circulated to all States/UTs and qualify for grant-in-aid mentioned above.

(b) and (c) Since the Scheme has been notified recently vide Ministry of Health & F.W. Resolution dated 13.1.97, (published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) (Part I—Section I) (No. 9) the question of information for the last 3 years therefore, does not arise.

(d) The details of the Scheme have been notified in the Gazette of India, as stated above.

**Upgradation of the Nagaland T.B. Hospital as National T.B. and Chest Hospital**

1738. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagaland T.B. Hospital which is constructed engrossing the area of Manipur can be upgraded as the national T.B. and Chest hospital in the interest of North-Eastern States so as to take care of border people of Manipur and Nagaland; and

(b) if not, whether a new advanced medical centres can be opened in this border area where the environmental condition is good for human treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) the Central Government has no scheme for upgrading TB Hospitals under the State Governments or for setting up of new advanced medical centres in the country.

**Hospitals in the Capital with Heart Surgery Facility**

1739. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned Heart Surgery—Poor has now here to go appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of hospitals in the capital having the facility of Heart Surgery;

(d) the number of persons operated in these hospitals during last one year; and

(e) what efforts are being made to provide surgery at affordable cost to poor strata of the society and whether Government could exercise some control on the cost of surgery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The specialised hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and G.B. Pant Hospital do not charge any operation fees or doctors fee, but the patient has to pay the actual charges for the materials and consumables required for the operation.

(c) The names of the hospitals in capital having the facility of heart surgery is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(d) The number of operations of heart surgery performed in 1996 in Government hospitals are as under:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. All India Instt, of Medical Sciences | —2391 |
| 2. G.B. Pant Hospital | 627 |
| 3. Safdarjung Hospital | 150 |
| 4. Dr. R. M. L. Hospital | 44* |

The reliable statistical data is not available relating to heart surgeries performed by private hospitals.

*Close heart surgery.